

police from a neighbor's house, a cell phone, or a public phone.

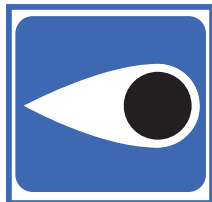
- » At night, if you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely IF YOU CAN, then call the police. If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police. If an intruder is in your room, pretend you are asleep.
- » One other important note — never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates that you may not be at home, or that you live alone. Instead, say, "We're not available right now." **AVOID** driving alone. Travel with someone whenever possible, especially at night.

### Know What You Own

While taking the steps above should help reduce your chances of being victimized by burglars, you can further minimize the damage and inconvenience by ensuring you know what was in your home. One of the easiest ways to do so is to take a simple inventory — write everything down of value, including watches, jewelry, electronics, power tools, and kitchen appliances.

You may also wish to participate in Operation ID, a free program to help guide you in marking your valuables. To learn more, visit [www.mpd.cdc.gov/operationid](http://www.mpd.cdc.gov/operationid). From the website, you can download a placard warning would-be burglars that you have marked all of your valuables, making them less likely to be pawned or sold. You can also get a copy of the property inventory form and learn about where to mark your valuables.

### OPERATION ID



WASHINGTON, DC

### Get More Safety Tips

For tips on other ways to stay safe from crime in your daily life, see the other brochures in this series, available from our Website at [www.mpd.cdc.gov/safety](http://www.mpd.cdc.gov/safety). Or visit your local police district. To find the one nearest you, visit [www.mpd.cdc.gov/districts](http://www.mpd.cdc.gov/districts).

### Get Involved!

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia's community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District	Main:.....(202) 698-0555..... TTY: 727-8506
	Substation:.....(202) 698-0068..... TTY: 543-2352
2nd District	Main:.....(202) 715-7300..... TTY: 364-3961
3rd District	Main:.....(202) 673-6815..... TTY: 518-0008
	Substation:.....(202) 576-8222..... TTY: 576-9640
4th District	Main:.....(202) 715-7400..... TTY: 722-1791
5th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0150..... TTY: 727-5437
6th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0880..... TTY: 398-5397
	Substation:.....(202) 698-2088..... TTY: 281-3945
7th District	Main:.....(202) 698-1500..... TTY: 889-3574

### Know Something About a Crime? Don't Keep It a Secret

If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (888) 919-2746 (CRIME) or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see [www.mpd.cdc.gov/tipline](http://www.mpd.cdc.gov/tipline).



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Metropolitan Police Department  
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Washington, DC 20001

January 2011

## FOR YOUR SAFETY



## Burglary Prevention

*Tips for protecting your home from burglary,  
forced entry, and home invasion*



# Don't make your home a target.

Have you ever been locked out of your home? Were you able to get in anyway? If you could break into your own home, it's just as easy for someone else to break in, too. Many intruders will spend no more than 60 seconds trying to break into a home.

The best prediction of a future burglary is a past burglary. Therefore, it is important to take preventive measures now. Strong locks — and good neighbors who look out for one another — can be effective deterrents to burglars. Here are a few tips that can help you keep you and your property safe and secure.

## Check Your Locks

- » Make sure every external door has a strong, well-installed dead bolt lock. Key-in-the-knob locks alone are not enough.
- » Sliding glass doors offer easy access to burglars if they are not properly secured. You can secure them by putting a broomstick or dowel in the inside track to jam the door, or by installing commercially available locks. To prevent the door being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the sliding door frame and the fixed frame. Then insert a pin in the hole.
- » Lock double-hung windows with key locks or "pin" your windows by drilling a small hole at a 45 degree angle between the inner and outer frames, then insert a nail that can be removed. You should secure basement windows with grilles or grates (but make sure that they can be opened from the inside in case of fire).
- » **NEVER** hide keys around the outside of your home!! Instead, give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- » When you move into a new house or apartment, **RE-KEY THE LOCKS.**

## Check Your Doors

While we all like to feel that once we close and lock our doors, we're safe and secure, the truth of the matter is that a lock on a flimsy door is about as effective as locking your car door but leaving the window down with your wallet on the front seat!

Take these steps to make your home as secure as possible:

- » All outside doors should be metal or solid wood.
- » Install a peephole or wide angle viewer in all entry doors so that you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains break easily and don't keep out intruders.
- » If your doors don't fit tightly in their frames, install weather stripping around them.



## Check the Outside

Take a look at your home from the outside, and keep in mind the following tips to help make your home as safe as it can be:

- » Burglars **HATE** bright lights. Install outside lights and **KEEP THEM ON** at night. Motion-detector lights can be particularly effective.
- » Keep your yard clean. Prune shrubbery so it doesn't hide windows or doors. Cut back tree limbs that a burglar could use to climb to an upper-level window.
- » If you travel, create the illusion that you are at home by getting timers that will turn lights (and perhaps a television or radio) on and off in different parts of your home throughout the day and evening hours. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house!
- » Leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions.
- » Make sure you don't let your mail and/or newspapers pile up! Call the post office and newspaper to stop delivery or have a neighbor pick them up.
- » If you place your trash or recycling bins at the curb, be sure that they are returned to your yard before you leave town, or ask a neighbor to gather them.

## Protect the Inside

- » Make a list of your valuables, such as VCRs, DVD players, stereos, computers, and jewelry. Take pictures of the items, list their serial numbers and description. This will help police if your home is burglarized. See the "Know What You Own" section below for helpful resources.
- » Contact your District police station for a free home security survey.

## Burglars Can Do More Than Just Steal

While most burglars prefer to strike when no one is home, intruders can commit other crimes such as rape, robbery, and assault if they are surprised by someone entering the home, or if they pick a home that is occupied.

- » If something looks questionable — a slit screen, a broken window, or an open door — **DON'T GO IN!** Call the